

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 05129 01 OF 02 201243Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 IO-11 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 /088 W

----- 043611

R 201227Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8027

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT OUT TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS

1. SUMMARY: CGT LAUNCHED MAJOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO REACH 3 MILLION MARK BY CLOSE OF 1976. THIS PROVIDES CGT WITH OPPORTUNITY PROJECT CONCERN FOR DEMOCRACY, IN LINE WITH SIMILAR EFFORT BY PCF, TO INDIRECTLY RECRUIT FOR THE PCF AND USE CURRENT LULL IN UNION ACTIVITIES FOR A CAMPAIGN WHICH IN ADDITION TO SWELLING ITS RANKS WOULD HELP KEEP THE CGT FLAG HIGH AND VISIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF AN UNPRECEDENTED MEETING (18 FEB) OF CGT'S NATIONAL CONFEDERAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF FEDERATIONS AND DEPARTMENTAL UNIONS ENLARGED TO INCLUDE 150 SECRETARIES OF LOCAL  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 05129 01 OF 02 201243Z

UNIONS IN THE PARIS AREA THE CGT LEADERS LAUNCHED A MAJOR RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN WITH A GOAL TO REACH

3 MILLION MEMBERS BY THE END OF 1976. EQUALLY UNPRECEDENTED WAS THE DECISION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PRESS INCLUDING THE UK, FRG AND U.S. LABOR COUNSELORS.

3. MEETING OPENED WITH A REPORT BY CGT'S SECGEN GEORGES SEGUY (COPY TO EUR) WHICH WAS A REMARKABLE PIECE OF ORATORY FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) MODERATION OF LANGUAGE WHICH WENT SO FAR AS TO REDUCE STRIKINGLY THE USE OF IDEOLOGICAL SLOGANS; THE WORD SOCIALISM WAS MENTIONED TWICE ONLY.

(B) A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO PROJECT A CGT CONCERN FOR DEMOCRATIC RULE AND FOR RANK AND FILE PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING. SEGUY WAS IMPRESSIVELY CONVINCING ON THIS POINT.

(C) AN UNUSUALLY LONG LIST OF ACCURATELY DESCRIBED FAILINGS ON THE PART OF CGT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE WORKERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CGT TO EXPLAIN WHY CGT HAD NOT DONE BETTER IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. HE ADMITTED THAT CGT NEEDED TO RECRUIT 13 PERCENT A YEAR IN ORDER TO JUST MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT MEMBERSHIP OF 2.4 MILLION INCLUDING 400,000 RETIRED.

(D) A COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT THIS CAMPAIGN WHICH IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE HE SAID WILL INCLUDE 250,000 FFS FROM CGT'S RESERVE FUND AND 250,000 FFS FROM AFFILIATES.

4. EVEN MORE EXTRAORDINARY (AND UNFORTUNATELY VERY CLEVER) WAS SEGUY'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THIS NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WILL DISPENSE WITH THE FORMALITY OF THE "APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP" AND ALL THOSE WHO WOULD SHOW INTEREST IN JOINING WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE HANDED CGT CARDS AT THE USUAL BARGAIN RATE OF 3 FRANCS A CARD. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HE EX-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 05129 01 OF 02 201243Z

PLAINED THAT SINCE EVERY MEMBER MUST BELONG TO A PROFESSIONAL FEDERATION THE NEW RECRUITS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THEIR APPROPRIATE TRADES AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL OF THEIR FIRST CARD, NAMELY BEGINNING OF 1977.

5. SEGUY SOUGHT TO REASSURE THE OTHER LABOR ORGANIZATIONS BY STATING THAT THE CAMPAIGN WILL AIM AT THE UNORGANIZED AND ESPECIALLY AT THE ESTIMATED 4 MILLION WORKERS WHO VOTE FOR THE CGT IN PLANT

ELECTIONS WITHOUT BEING MEMBERS.

6. SEGUY'S SPEECH WAS ALSO NOTABLE FOR HIS MINIMAL REFERENCE TO THE CGT UNITY OF ACTION AGREEMENT WITH THE CFDT AND HIS ADMISSION IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT DESPITE THIS AGREEMENT THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IS FIERCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 05129 02 OF 02 201241Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 IO-11 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 /088 W

----- 043528

R 201227Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05129

"BUT NORMAL."

7. THE REFERENCES TO THE COMMON PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS, WERE NOT OVERBEARING. MOST SIGNIFICANT IN THIS CONNECTION WAS SEGUY'S DETERMINED EFFORT TO MAKE THE POINT THAT CAPITALIST FORCES IN EUROPE

AND THE USA WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FRUSTRATE  
THE RISING FORTUNES OF THE UNITED LEFT IN FRANCE.

8. FOLLOWING SEGUY'S SPEECH FIVE DELEGATES  
REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS ATTEND-  
ING THE MEETING SPOKE BUT WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY WAS  
OF MARGINAL INTEREST. SEGUY RECOGNIZED IN HIS PRESS  
CONFERENCE THAT THE DELEGATES' SPEECHES WERE OF  
UNEVEN QUALITY, AN ADMISSION WHICH SUSTAINS THE VIEW  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 05129 02 OF 02 201241Z

OF MOST OBSERVERS THAT WHILE THE DELEGATES  
WHO SPOKE WERE HAND-PICKED BY THE CGT THEY WERE NOT  
NECESSARILY TOLD WHAT TO SAY.

9. THE LABOR COUNSELORS COMMENTED ON THE FACT  
THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THAT MEETING WHICH WOULD  
HAVE DISTINGUISHED IT FROM A SIMILAR MEETING BY  
FORCE OUVRIERE FOR EXAMPLE. THE LEVEL OF ATTENTION  
WAS ABOUT THE SAME. THE APPLAUSE DID NOT EXCEED  
A USUAL 50-60 PERCENT OF THE DELEGATES. THE  
BOURGEOIS APPEARANCE OF MOST DELEGATES EVEN THOUGH  
OF OBVIOUS WORKERS' ORIGIN WAS THE SAME AS CAN BE  
FOUND IN ANY OTHER TRADE UNION MEETING. THE SAME  
APPLIES TO THE CGT LEADERS AT THE HEAD TABLE. THERE  
WAS DISCIPLINE BUT NO REGIMENTATION. THE ONLY  
SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE WAS THE FACT THAT BEFORE IT  
WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SEGUY'S SPEECH WAS TO BE DISTRIBU-  
TED TO ALL DELEGATES PRACTICALLY ALL OF THEM WERE  
SEEN TAKING NOTES. SOMETHING THAT IS RARELY SEEN  
IN OTHER MEETINGS. THIS IS PROBABLY AS MUCH OF A SIGN  
OF DEDICATION AND EARNESTNESS AS OF A COMPULSION TO  
MAKE SURE THAT THEY GOT THE CGT LINE STRAIGHT.

10. COMMENT: THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT CGT'S  
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IS AS MUCH DICTATED BY ITS OWN  
INTERESTS IN THE MATTER AS BY THE PCF INTEREST TO  
SUSTAIN ITS CLAIM THAT IT IS A WORKERS PARTY. THE  
IDEA OF GIVING OUT CARDS WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP APPLICAT-  
IONS MAKES IT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE 3 MILLION  
MARK WILL BE ATTAINED IN A MATTER OF A FEW MONTHS.  
HOWEVER, WHILE IT MAY BE EASIER TO RECRUIT NEW  
MEMBERS IN THIS MANNER THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO KEEP  
THEM AND HAVE THEM PAY DUES WILL BE EVEN GREATER  
THAN IS USUALLY THE CASE.

11. CGT RECRUITMENT IS ALSO INDIRECT RECRUITMENT  
FOR THE PCF. SEGUY ADMITTED AS MUCH WHEN HE TOLD UK  
AND U.S. LABOR COUNSELORS THAT CGT MILITANTS AFTER  
A WHILE DEVELOP A POLITICAL AWARENESS WHICH LEADS

THEM TO PARTY MEMBERSHIP.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 05129 02 OF 02 201241Z

12. SEGUY'S PITCH IN LAUNCHING THE DRIVE IS IN LINE WITH THE PCF EFFORT TO REFURBISH ITS IMAGE WITH A THICK VENEER OF DEMOCRACY. CGT COULD NOT AFFORD TO LAG FAR BEHIND IN UNDERTAKING A SIMILAR EFFORT FOR ITSELF. CURIOUSLY SEGUY'S DRIVE TO GET QUANTITY AT THE PRICE OF QUALITY WILL IN TIME BECOME AN INDEPENDENT FACTOR FAVORING DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES. AS A RULE THE CHANCES OF HOLDING TOGETHER THE RANKS OF MASS FOLLOWERS ARE MUCH GREATER THROUGH DEMOCRACY THAN THROUGH IDEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINE AND AUTHORITARIAN MANAGEMENT WHICH NORMALLY ALIENATE ALL BUT THE FAITHFUL.

13. CGT'S DRIVE CAN ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS AN ADMISSION THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR AGITATION AND THE RANK AND FILE KNOWS BEST AND HAS RESISTED EXHORTATIONS TO THAT EFFECT. WHY NOT THEN USE THE CURRENT LULL TO THROW THE NETS FOR MORE CATCH? IS THERE A BETTER WAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE TO KEEP THE CGT FLAG UP AND VISIBLE IN EVERY PLANT, METRO, TRAIN AND SHOP?  
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, LABOR UNIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PARIS05129  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760064-0306  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760230/aaaaazrf.tel  
**Line Count:** 253  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CGT OUT TO RECRUIT MORE MEMBERS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, FR, CGT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006